

1. ⁵29. The apparatus of claim ⁴28 wherein said elongate tip portion is
2 releasably connected to said core wire by a spring-loaded mechanical clasp.

1. ⁶30. The apparatus of claim ¹28 wherein said elongate tip portion is
2 detachable from said core wire by electrolytic disintegration of part of said wire.

Remarks

Claims ¹1 - ²⁴24 were original in the application and have been canceled without prejudice. The present amendment adds Claims 25 - 30 as better defining the invention.

Enclosed are references which have come to the attention of applicant, but which have not been previously considered by the Office in connection with the invention. Exhibit 1, Guglielmi, is a translation and the Italian original of a published article by the inventor relating to the formation of occlusions by electrothrombus. Exhibit 1 is distinguished from the claims for showing the electrolysis of a relatively inflexible and short steel wire in an aneurysm without any separable distal tip.

Exhibit 2 is an article by Castandea-Zuniga which is an example of separate coils which were telescopically disposed on a guidewire inside of a catheter and then pushed out of the end of the catheter off the guidewire into the aneurysm. Very arguably the coils are "coupled" to the guidewire by friction.

The claims are distinguished from Castandea-Zuniga by a coupling means that allows the coils to be detached from the wire without displacement of the coil or assertion of any force thereon, i.e. a forceless letting go like the unclasping of hands, namely without any torsional or translational force being applied to the tip or without any rotational or translational displacement of the tip relative to the wire.

Exhibit 3 is an article by Anderson that shows an mechanism for unscrewing a coil from a guidewire tip. Anderson was earlier disclosed in the immediate parent application, but is again specifically mentioned to emphasize that Anderson is distinguished in the invention by a coupling means that allows the coils to be detached from the guidewire without displacement of the coil or assertion of any force thereon, i.e. a forceless letting go.

Attached as Exhibit 4 is Morrison which is distinguished both for failing to have a separable tip and for failing to have a coupling means that allows the coils to be detached from the guidewire without displacement of the coil or assertion of any force thereon, i.e. a forceless letting go. Morrison teaches away from the claim by going to great lengths to include a safety ribbon to prevent tip separation. Second, Morrison's safety ribbon prevents flexibility in one of the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the ribbon.

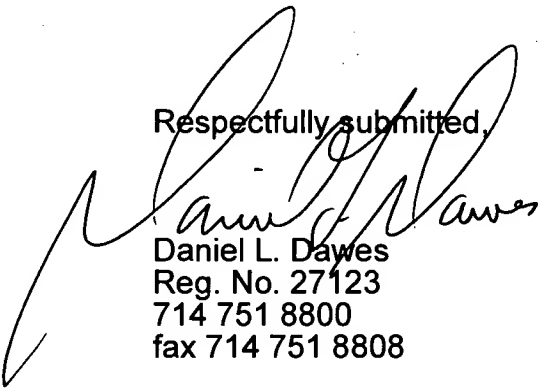
None of the art shows a detachable guidewire/tip combination which has electrolytic detachment of the tip. None of the art shows a detachable guidewire/tip combination which detaches without rotational or translational displacement of the guidewire and tip. None of the art shows a detachable

guidewire/tip combination which detaches without a rotational or translational force being applied between the guidewire and tip in order to effect detachment. None of the art shows a detachable guidewire/tip combination which can be freely moved with a microcatheter through the tortuous endovascular pathway in the intracranial and still be movable with the microcatheter in that pathway and still be movable within the microcatheter to extend the tip from the microcatheter for disposition and detachment in the intracranial aneurysm.

Attached as Exhibit 5 are the office actions received to date in all foreign office actions in the EPO, Japan, and Australia. Although neither prior art nor publications, the office actions are presented for the Examiner's information. All of the prior art cited in the foreign office actions are listed in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement with copies attached.

Advancement of the claims to issuance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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